

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: 1990 (Neoptolemus and the arms of Achilles)

Having sailed to Sigeium where his father Achilles was buried, Neoptolemus asks the Atreidae for his father's armour. But that has already been given to Odysseus, as Odysseus confirms.

This is the story of how the sons of Atreus insulted me. They came for me—great Odysseus himself, and Phoenix, my father's former guardian—in a ship with colours flying to bring the message that, my father being dead, it was not right that anyone but I should take the towers of Troy. When I heard this, I lost no time in setting sail to go with them—chiefly for love of my father, and wishing to see him once before he was buried. For I had never seen him.

ἦν δ' ἡμᾶρ ἤδη δεύτερον πλέοντί μοι,
καγὼ πικρὸν Σίγειον οὐ πολλῶ στόλῳ
κατηγόμην· καί μ' εὐθὺς ἐν κύκλῳ στρατὸς
ἐκβάντα πᾶς ἠσπάζετ', ὁμνύντες βλέπειν
τὸν οὐκέτ' ὄντα ζώντ' Ἀχιλλέα πάλιν.
κεῖνος μὲν οὖν ἔκειτ'¹. ἐγὼ δ' ὁ δύσμορος,
ἐπεὶ δάκρυσα κείνον, οὐ μακρῶ χρόνῳ
ἐλθὼν Ἀτρείδας πρὸς φίλους, ὡς εἰκὸς ἦν,
τά θ' ὄπλ' ἀπήτουν τοῦ πατρὸς τά τ' ἄλλ' ὄσ' ἦν.
οἱ δ' εἶπον, οἴμοι, τλημονέστατον λόγον·
ὦ σπέρμ' Ἀχιλλέως, τᾶλλα μὲν πάρεστί σοι
πατρῶ' ἐλέσθαι, τῶν δ' ὄπλων κείνων ἀνὴρ
ἄλλος κρατύνει νῦν, ὁ Λαέρτου γόνος.
καγὼ δακρύσας εὐθὺς ἐξανίσταμαι
ὀργῇ βαρεῖα, καὶ καταλήσας λέγω·
ὦ σχέτλι', ἢ τολμήσατ' ἀντ' ἐμοῦ τι
δοῦναι τὰ τεύχη τὰμά, πρὶν μαθεῖν ἐμοῦ²;
ὁ δ' εἶπ' Ὀδυσσεύς, πλησίον γὰρ ὦν κυρεῖ,
ναί, παῖ, δεδώκασ' ἐνδίκως οὔτοι τάδε.
ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτ' ἔσωσα κακείνον παρών.
καγὼ χολωθεὶς εὐθὺς ἤρασσον³ λόγοις
εἰ τὰμά κείνος ὄπλ' ἀφαιρήσοιτό με.

374

375

SOPHOCLES: *Philoctetes* 354–376 (adapted)

¹ ἔκειτο = had died

² μανθάνω (+ gen.) = I learn from

³ ἀράσσω (here) = I reproach, upbraid

Write out and scan lines 374 and 375 from ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτ' ... ἤρασσον λόγοις.

[30]

